PATENT REPLY FILED UNDER EXPEDITED PROCEDURE PURSUANT TO 37 CFR § 1.116

Listing of Claims:

1-67 (Canceled).

68. (Currently Amended) A method, comprising:

transmitting <u>in compressed time format</u> a plurality of video programs to <u>high speed</u> <u>memory buffers at</u> a plurality of consumer locations for automatic <u>storage buffering</u> at the consumer locations without consumer selection or using individual consumer preference information; and

billing a consumer location within the plurality of consumer locations once an automatically stored video program from the plurality of transmitted video programs has been selected for viewing.

- 69. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 68, further comprising: encoding the transmitted video programs with data permitting playback only on a playback device with compatible decoder.
 - 70. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 68 further comprising: encoding the transmitted video programs with time-based code keys A.
- 71. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 70 wherein the time-based code keys A encoded into the transmitted video programs are correlated with periodic time-based code keys B that are blanket transmitted to the plurality of consumer locations and time-based code keys C that are provided to consumer locations within the plurality of consumer locations that are in good standing, wherein a customer can only view a video program if all three code keys A, B and C have been received.
- 72. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 71 further comprising: communicating video program playback information from each consumer location to a central controller system when the time-based code keys C are provided.

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- 73. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 68 wherein the act of transmitting a plurality of video programs is carried out by direct broadcast satellite transmission on multiple channels in compressed-time format.
- 74. (Previously Presented) A computer readable medium having computer-executable instructions stored thereon for performing the method of claim 68.
- 75. (Previously Presented) A computer readable medium having computer-executable instructions stored thereon for performing the method of claim 69.
- 76. (Previously Presented) A computer readable medium having computer-executable instructions stored thereon for performing the method of claim 70.
- 77. (Previously Presented) A computer readable medium having computerexecutable instructions stored thereon for performing the method of claim 71.
- 78. (Previously Presented) A computer readable medium having computer-executable instructions stored thereon for performing the method of claim 72.
- 79. (Previously Presented) A computer readable medium having computer-executable instructions stored thereon for performing the method of claim 73.
 - 80. (Currently Amended) A device, comprising:

a receiving mechanism configured to receive a plurality of video programs transmitted together in compressed time format for automatic storage buffering in a high speed memory buffer at a consumer location without consumer selection or using individual consumer preference information;

selected by a particular consumer location associated with the video recording device; and

a recording mechanism configured to record said video programs automatically at a consumer location without consumer selection or using individual consumer preference information; and

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a billing mechanism in communication with the playback mechanism configured to transmit billing information to a central billing system accounting for each time an automatically recorded video program has been selected for playback.

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81. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 80 further comprising:

a playback mechanism configured to playback recorded video programs upon selection for playback by a user; and

a billing mechanism in communication with the playback mechanism configured to transmit billing information to a central billing system accounting for each time an automatically recorded video program has been selected for playback.

- 82. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 81 further comprising:
 a control mechanism in communication with the receiving mechanism configured to verify
 a received combination of time-based code keys for authorizing play-back of said transmitted
 video programs at a desired time, and enabling said playback.
 - 83. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 82 further comprising:

a decoding mechanism in communication with the control mechanism configured to decode transmitted video programs wherein time-based code keys A that are encoded into the transmitted video programs are correlated with periodic time-based code keys B that are blanket transmitted to a plurality of consumer locations and time-based code keys C that are provided to consumer locations within the plurality of consumer locations that are in good standing such that a consumer can only view a video program if all three code keys A, B and C have been received by the playback device.

84. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 83 wherein the billing mechanism comprises:

a mechanism configured to communicate an identity of said video program and a unique identifying address associated with said consumer to said central billing system upon initiating play-back of the video program; and

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a playback-enabling mechanism configured to receive from said central billing system the third time-based code key for identifying a status of said consumer to enable said play-back of said video program.

85. (Currently Amended) A system, comprising:

a mechanism configured to transmit a plurality of video programs to <u>high speed</u> memory buffers at a plurality of consumer locations for automatic <u>storage buffering</u> at the consumer locations without consumer selection or using individual consumer preference information; and

a billing mechanism configured to bill a consumer location within the plurality of consumer locations once an automatically stored video program from the plurality of transmitted video programs has been selected for viewing.

- 86. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 85, further comprising: an encoder configured to encode the transmitted video programs with data permitting playback only on a playback device with compatible decoder.
- 87. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 85 further comprising: an encoder configured to encode the transmitted video programs with time-based code keys A.
- 88. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 87 wherein the time-based code keys A encoded into the transmitted video programs are correlated with periodic time-based code keys B that are blanket transmitted to the plurality of consumer locations and time-based code keys C that are provided to consumer locations within the plurality of consumer locations that are in good standing, wherein a customer can only view a video program if all three code keys A, B and C have been received.
- 89. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 88 further comprising: a mechanism configured to communicate video program playback information from each consumer location to a central controller system when the time-based code keys C are provided.

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90. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 85 wherein the mechanism configured to transmit a plurality of video programs is configured to transmit by direct broadcast satellite transmission on multiple channels in compressed-time format.